

MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

Bill:	House Bill 14	Date:	January 27, 2026
Title:	County Boards of Education - Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation - Information Collection and Reporting Requirements	Committee:	Ways and Means
Position:	Favorable	Contact:	Kimberly Buckheit kimberly.buckheit1@maryland.gov 443-902-0622

On behalf of the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS), thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support for House Bill 14.

Safe schools are inclusive environments free from fear, harm, trauma, and unnecessary hardship. School safety includes physical and emotional well being. MCSS recognizes the importance of distinguishing bully, harassment, or intimidation behavior that is motivated by an individual's personal characteristics. Doing so allows school officials to respond in a manner that decreases the likelihood of hate, bias motivated behavior from occurring in the future.

Gathering information at the school level about the occurrence of incidents of bullying, harassment, or intimidation that were motivated by a real or perceived personal characteristic of an individual or group informs appropriate next steps to mitigate and remediate. Awareness allows school leaders to engage in strategies to mitigate impact to individuals who have been harmed, and direct services toward instruction and remediation at the individual and school level.

Using a public health informed approach to address the problem of hate and bias requires engagement by a wide range of school safety partners. Behavior occurs across environments; school, home, recreation, online, thus efforts to ameliorate the problem should cross settings. Posting incident data at the local level, required by HB 14, operates from the premise that transparency leads to solution focused action. MCSS remains committed to collaborating with MSDE and local school systems in support of achieving the intended outcomes.

Thank you again for taking the time to consider the information shared above, and MCSS respectfully requests that the committee give House Bill 14 a favorable report.

